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1872  
REPORTS

OF THE

Selectmen, Town Treasurer,

AND

Supt. School Committee

OF THE

TOWN OF PLYMOUTH,

FOR THE

Year ending March 1, 1872.

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PLYMOUTH.

PRINTED BY VAN. N. BASS.

1872.





## SELECTMENS' REPORT.

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*The Selectmen in account with the Town of Plymouth, for  
the Year 1871.*

1871.		DR.	
April	1	To cash hired of W. W. Cox Jr.	\$700 00
"	"	" " " D. C. Hill,	125 00
"	1st,	" " " A. R. Sawyer,	200 00
"	12,	" " " H. W. Leavitt,	1504 00
"	15,	" " " Enoch Ward,	17 32
"	17,	" Received of John Keniston for personal property sold on town farm in part,	83 00
May	3	do do do.	150 00
"	9	Cash received of County on Pauper acct.	156 25
June	3,	Cash hired of John Morrill,	75 00
"	19	" " A. R. Sawyer,	200 00
"	"	" " R. P. Smith,	75 00
"	24	" " Chas. Clapp Jr.	200 00
July	7	" " J. H. Mudgett,	150 00
"	"	" " John Mc'Donald,	80 00
"	13	" " E. G. Burleigh,	200 00
"	15	" " John Morrill,	1000 00
"	26	" " Timothy Cheney,	1275 00
"	28	" " Ann C. Philbrick	125 00
"	31	" received for bounty on Bears,	12 00
Aug.	12	" hired of B. L. Hill,	150 00
"	16	" " Seth Doton,	125 00
"	"	" " Mary A. Doton,	50 00
Sept	2	" " D. R. Bartlett,	369 70
"	5	" " E. G. Kelley,	3050 00
"	16	" " C. H. Morrill,	75 00
Oct.	13	" " Mary F. Bartlett,	50 00
"	"	" " E. J. Bartlett,	100 00
"	19	" " Wash. Blaisdell,	100 00

Oct	19	"	"	C. H. Morrill,	110.00
	20	"		Received of John Keniston ,	
				sales of town farm in part ,	600.00
Nov.	8			Cash received of County on pauper	
				account,	37 12
	10	do	do	do	19 25
	30			Cash hired of S. S. Nutting,	400 00
	30	"	"	John Nutting,	400 00
Dec.		"		received for Literary, R. Road	
				and Bank Stock,	1535 11
1872					
Jan.	5			cash hired of D. R. Bartlett,	144,00
	20	"	"	Wash. Blaisdell,	50 00
	27	"	"	Geo. Clark,	250 00
	27	"	"	Wash. George,	200 90
Feb.	3	"	"	D. R. Bartlett,	135 25
	10	"	"	J. Mc'Donald,	140 00
	10	"	"	S. F. Jewell,	380 00
	12	"	"	Peter Whittemore,	150 00
	20	"	"	Laura H. Barnard,	153 00
	22			Received of Overseer of poor 1870	15 91
	22			Received of town of Haverhill on	
				acct. of Moses Pillsbury,	62 75
	24			cash hired of Laura A. Barnard,	50 00
	24	"	"	R. J. Pillsbury,	100 00
	27	"	"	D. H. Currier, Guardian	179 76
	27	"	"	do do	126 67
					<hr/>
					\$15 636 99

*The Selectmen in and with the Town of Plymouth.*

1871.

CR.

April	1	By	Cash paid	Treas. per receipt,	\$700 00
	1	"	"	"	125 00
	11	"	"	"	200 00
	12	"	"	"	1504 00
	15	"	"	"	17 32
	17	"	"	"	83 90
May	3	"	"	"	150 00
	9	"	"	"	156 25
June	1	"	"	"	75 00

	19	"	"	"	200 00
	19	"	"	"	75 00
July	24	"	"	"	200 00
	7	"	"	"	150 00
	7	"	"	"	80 00
	13	"	"	"	200 00
	15	"	"	"	1000 00
	26	"	"	"	1275 00
	28	"	"	"	125 00
Aug.	31	"	"	"	12 00
	12	"	"	"	150 00
	16	"	"	"	125 00
	16	"	"	"	50 00
Sept.	2	"	"	"	369 70
	5	"	"	"	3050 00
	16	"	"	"	75 00
Oct.	13	"	"	"	150 00
	19	"	"	"	210 00
	20	"	"	"	600 00
Nov.	8	"	"	"	37 12
	10	"	"	"	1925 00
Dec.	30	"	"	"	800 00
1872	1	"	"	"	1525 11
Jan.	5	"	"	"	144 00
	20	"	"	"	50 00
	27	"	"	"	450 90
Feb.	3	"	"	"	135 25
	10	"	"	"	520 00
	12	"	"	"	150 00
	20	"	"	"	153 00
	22	"	"	"	62 75
	22	"	"	"	15 91
	24	"	"	"	50 00
	24	"	"	"	100 00
	17	"	"	"	306 43

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\$15 636 99



## A. G. SMYTH, TREASURER,

In account with the town of Plymouth,

1871.

DR.

To assessment of State, County, Town and School Taxes, on residents,	\$13 773 11
Assessment of State, County, School and Highway Taxes on non-residents,	142 29
Assessment of Tax on Dogs,	71 00
Assessment of special Tax in Dist. No. 6,	51 68
Cash on hand March 1, 1871,	495 82
Uncollected Taxes in hands of Collector in 1869,	276 91
Uncollected Taxes in hands of Collector in 1870,	935 19
Cash received of Selectmen in 1870,	15 636 99
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	\$31 382 99

## A. G. SMYTH. TREASURER,

in account with the town of Plymouth.

1871.

CR.

March 4.	Paid Otis Young Jr. use of land for winter road for year ending 1870	\$10 00
6.	Peltiah Russell, bounty on three Bears skins,	12 00
10.	Seth Doton, for plank sold from town farm from Dist. No. 15 in 1870,	2 03
14.	D. C. Wheeler, int. on Sarah A Cross note,	34 50
22.	Seth Doton, endorsed on note,	150 00
24.	Thom's Shute, for coupons,	19 56
25.	H. W. Merrill, as services for police 1870,	29 50
25.	Otis Young, do	25 25
28.	L. M. Howe, services as auditor 1870,	1 50
28.	Washington George, do	1 50
29.	J. E. Kimball, note and interest,	52 30
April 7.	H. L. Sargent, services as school committee year ending March 14, 1871,	55 00
7.	Maria W. Dearborn, ballance note and int.	14 88
7.	Wm. Leverett, Insurance on town farm buildings,	11 00
12.	Frank E. Flanders, note and interest,	114 70



	13.	B. B. Dearborn, printing town reports,	42 00
	14.	B. W. Moulton, three notes and interest,	1133 27
		John X. Brown, breaking roads, in 1870 and 1871,	4 50
		B. Clement, on Nancy B. Barbers notes,	16 82
		Enoch Ward, interest on Harriet S. Ward's note,	173 04
	18.	Benj. Kidder. literary money 1870,	25 00
		Benj. Kidder, breaking roads 1870 and '71,	11 25
		H. M. Rogers, endorsed on note,	100 00
		D. L. Clark, coupons,	6 52
	24.	W. D. Blodgett, highway tax,	2 25
		Nath. Batchelder, coupons,	13 04
		Stephen Glynn, endorsed on note,	30 11
	28.	J. P. Bancroft, support of C. W. Adams and E. Shute,	105 75
		Express on same,	25
May	4.	Frank E. Flanders, note and interest,	64 85
		John T. Cutter, on note,	700 00
	9.	J. E. Kimball, note and interest,	82 03
	13.	Moses Pervier, labor on highway,	4 05
	17.	J. T. Cutter, on notes,	200 00
	27.	John X. Brown, labor self and cattle for Nathan Johnson,	6 00
	31.	Van N. Bass, note and interest,	106 32
		Geo. Reed, coupons,	13 04
June	2.	Isaac Huckins, widening road near T. E. Baileys'	40 00
	9.	E. E. Merrill, for plank,	4 19
	12.	J. W. Preston, record of births and deaths,	2 00
	20.	Henry Webster, note and interest,	508 05
		Mary B. Mitchel, interest on note,	5 40
		H. L. Sargent, ballance on special tax in district 5,	2 97
July	1.	J. A. Drake, for Plank,	8 35
	7.	Henry Webster, note and interest,	332 77
		John T. Cutter, on notes,	200 00
	15.	do do.	1000 00
	25.	J. P. Bancroft, support of Adams and Shute,	115 75
		Express on same,	30
	26.	J. T. Cutter, on notes,	1200 00
	27.	State Reform School, support of Cora Turner,	4 45
Aug.	15.	J. T. Cutter, on notes,	200 00
	16.	Ann E. Greenleaf, note and interest,	379 20

		Isaac Huckins, for lumber,	7 51
Sept.	21.	H. L. Sargent, for posting school notices,	5 00
	2.	J. T. Cutter, on notes,	369 70
	7.	A. W. Avery & Co, note and interest,	654 55
	8.	S. W. Davis, record of births and deaths,	2 75
	11.	Stephen Glynn, bal. note and interest,	38 87
		Lewis Corliss, labor on highway and furnishing water trough,	5 10
	18.	J. T. Cutter, on notes,	500 00
	19.	W. W. Wise, labor on highway,	16 25
	22.	J. T. Cutter, bal. note and interest,	1829 48
	30.	B. W. Moulton, note and interest,	1060 98
Oct.	14.	Ann E. Philbrick, note and interest,	126 56
	19.	Geo. W. Little, sign boards,	3 68
	20.	County Tax,	1915 07
		Express on same,	1 30
		J. P. Bancroft, support of Adams and Shute,	119 40
		Express on same,	35
		D. L. Guernsey, stationery and books,	10 16
		Wash. George, note and interest,	351 18
Nov.	4	Jason Clark, support of Almira Palmer,	19 00
		C. D. Mc'Donald, labor on bridge.	10 50
		Tho. Shute, do	6 50
		Geo. S. Greenleaf, do	5 50
	6.	Cyrus Corliss, labor on bridge, perambu- lating town line, and services at Fair,	25 50
		Chas. Spaulding, lumber for bridge,	162 13
	7.	B. C. & M. Railroad, for freight on lumber,	11 45
	13.	W. G. Hull, board for transient persons,	2 25
		C. C. & F. J. Moulton, for Nathan Johnson,	2 50
	13.	D. H. Currier, do	2 75
		A. G. Smyth & Son, do store acct.	16 22
		Edwd. Ferren, do	7 90
	18.	Jason Clark, support of Almira Palmer,	19 25
	23.	Simeon Moulton, note and interest,	52 70
		S. C. Rowe, labor on bridge,	2 00
		Cyrus Corliss, do do	12 10
		H. W. Merrill, do do	8 00
	25.	Tho. Shute, do do	4 00
	27.	Simeon Moulton, note and interest,	105 30
Dec.	4.	State Tax,	2406 00
		Express on same,	1 00
	9.	M. G. Tucker, endorsed on note,	50 00
	21.	B. C. & M. Railroad, fare for transient persons,	2 70

		W. G. Hull, expenses to concord on town business,	5 40
		Otis Young, taking care transient persons,	5 00
		Thomas Pressey, board, do	1 50
		W. G. Hull, do do	1 00
		C. D. Mc'Donald, labor on bridge,	2 00
	23.	Isaac Huckins, labor on highway,	90
	25.	Jonathan French, police,	2 00
	26	M. C. Eaton, medical attendance county pauper,	16 00
		do record births and deaths,	2 75
	27.	H. S. Ward, note and interest,	146 83
1872.			
Jan.	3.	H. M. Rogers, on note,	350 00
	4.	Seth Doton, services and expenses on town business,	5 00
	20.	S. W. Constantine, damage on account of defective highway,	25 00
		Ira Babb, do	25 00
		W. G. Hull, expenses procuring reimbursement of war expenditures, in part,	13 30
		W. G. Hull, for Ex. bills, stationery, and stamps,	4 11
		Tho. Pressey, board for transient persons,	1 50
		J. S. Tufts, medicines for paupers,	45
		Chas. Spaulding, plank for bridge,	3 79
		B. C. & M. Railroad, fare for transient persons,	1 15
	23.	J. P. Bancroft, support of Adams and Shute,	104 80
		Express on same,	30
	27.	Atkinson & Smith, nails for bridge,	1 33
		do do store account M. Pillsbury,	12 81
Feb.	3.	B. F. Gould, watering trough,	3 00
		Henry Homans, loss of sheep by dogs,	4 00
		M. C. Eaton, medical attendance M. Pillsbury,	4 00
	5.	James Keebles, services self and horse at funeral of Moses Pillsbury,	2 00
		W. D. Blodgett, wood for M. Pillsbury,	3 00
		J. A. Drake, digging grave for M. Pillsbury.	3 00
		James Keebles, labor on bridge and highway,	82 00
		James Keebles, breaking roads,	8 00
	10.	Sam. Elkins, watering trough,	3 00
		" " gravel for road,	3 00



	Cyrus Corliss, for supplies and attendance	
	, during the illness of M. Pillsbury,	17 81
	S. F. Jewell, wood for Mrs. Adams,	22 50
	J. H. Mudgett, endorsed on note,	100 00
	W. H. Adams, breaking roads in 1872,	16 95
17.	H. M. Rogers, endorsed on note,	500 00
19.	do do bal. note and interest,	223 85
20.	Seth Doton, note and interest,	162 40
	James Keebles, labor on bridge,	8 00
21.	A. Ward, wood for Mrs. Stearns,	13 00
	A. Ward, store acct M. Pillsbury,	4 39
	Several school districts,	1001 64
24.	Isaac M. Merrill, coffin, robe and box, for	
	M. Pillsbury,	15 75
	Geo. Reed, interest on note, as per vote	
	of town,	38 97
	M. G. Tucker, bal. note and interest,	306 43
	C. L. Corliss, work on highway, in 1869,	4 50
	Tim. Cheney, services as police,	6 00
	C. H. Bowles, literary money for dis. 3,	15 00
	S. M. Morse, do do 4,	15 00
	H. C. Homans do do 5,	15 00
	Martin Merrill, do do 6,	15 00
	Patrick Donovan, do do 12,	15 00
	Moses Pervier, do union District,	7 50
	R. B. Clark, do do 8,	15 00
	John F. Morton, do do 9,	15 00
	M. Merrill, special tax dis. 6,	43 00
24.	Thom. Pressey, for lodging transient	
	persons,	3 00
	J. A. Drake, for P. S. Cross, highway tax	
	worked in dis. No. 7,	1 50
	Benj. Kidder, for sleepers, and work on	
	bridge in dis. 16,	8 25
	Jos. Elkins, for F. E. C. Greene, highway	
	tax worked in district 5,	5 00
	Seth Doton, over taxed on horse,	2 19
	Chas. H. Bowles, for timber,	2 50
	W. W. Gibson, for repairing bridge and	
	highway in 1870 and '71,	7 50
	Henry Wells, for labor on highway,	2 02
	Jason Clark, bolts for bridge,	16 78
	T. J. Adams, plank for bridge,	20 54
	Moses Pervier, breaking roads,	12 45
	Henry Plummer, watering trough and	
	keeping transient persons,	4 00

W. A. Draper, plank for bridge,	6 00
J. X. Brown, breaking roads,	16 27
E. S. Weeks, work on highway,	23 05
W. A. Draper, breaking roads,	7 95
Enos Stevens, do do	4 65
Isaac Huckins do do	10 33
J. A. Drake, labor on highway,	19 47
Van N. Bass, printing,	4 00
K. C. Corliss, loss of sheep by dogs.	21 00
K. C. Corliss, breaking roads,	5 25
do do plank for bridge,	4 08
Jon'a. L. Clay, breaking roads,	3 60
Freeman Cook, rent of hall to March 1, '72	55 00
Otis Young Jr, for services as police, use of lobby, breaking roads, and use of land for winter road,	65 50
Sarah A. Cross, endorsed on note,	34 55
Thom. F. Clark, note and interest,	282 30
Coupons,	2808 90
J. T. Cutter, expenses to concord on town business,	5 40
Isaac M. Merrill, for ballot box,	2 00
John Haron, breaking roads,	2 70
H. D. Smith, for taxes on property taxed in Holderness,	4 50
28. John T. Cutter, services as selectman to March 1, 1872,	120 00
W. G. Hull, do	110 00
Cyrus Corliss do	72 00
A. G. Smyth, services as treasurer,	75 00
F. W. A. Robie, services as town clerk,	50 00
D. C. Wheeler, services as collector, print- ing notices, and police duty,	128 00

## ABATEMENT OF TAXES, 1871.

Widow Miram Adams,	7 58
„ C. B. Adams,	4 19
Josiah B. Rogers, over taxed,	10 00
John X. Brown, over taxed,	3 33
Wid. M. A. Gawley, over taxed,	3 33
Smith H. Rowe, estate, over taxed,	3 33
John A. Drake, Pike property over taxed,	1 53
Henry Hutchins, taxed in Benton,	4 99
	38 28

Paid Expense, Oct. 20, 1871,	13
Taxes in E. K. Smith's hands, collector for 1869, March 1, 1872,	200 82
In D. C. Wheeler's hands collector for 1870, March 1, 1872,	258 19
In D. C. Wheeler's hands, collector for 1871, March 1, 1872,	2 693 18
Cash in hands of Treasurer, Mar. 1, '72,	2 075 17
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	\$31 382 99

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## OVERSEER OF THE POOR,

In account with the town of Plymouth.

1871.	DR.
To cash received for personal property sold at Auction on town farm,	\$221 56
	CR.
By cash paid for the support of Melvina Kimball, Services as overseer of the poor,	211 56 10 00
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	\$221 56

JOHN KENISTON, Overseer of the Poor.

WE have examined the accounts of the Selectmen, Treasurer, and Overseer of the Poor, ending March 1, 1872, and find the same correctly cast and properly vouched.

PLUMMER FOX.	} Auditors.
SETH DOTON,	

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## Indebtedness of the Town March 1, 1872.

Notes and interest to March 1, 1872,	\$33 075 97
Bonds outstanding,	6 720 00
Interest on same to March 1, 1872,	67 20
Literary money due dis. 1,	15,00
Literary money due district 2,	15 00



Literary money due district 7;

15 00

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\$39 908 17

## Means of paying the same.

Cash in hands of Treasurer,		2 075 17
" " of Collector,	1865,	120 00
" " " "	1866,	145 29
" " " "	1869,	200 82
" " " "	1870,	258 19
" " " "	1871.	2 693 18
Liquors and casks on hand,		17 63
Due from the county,		12 85
Due from W. C. Thompson bal. highway tax,		4 30
State Bonds now due,		10 191 67
J. F. & W. F. Langdon, note and interest,		1 327 95
		<hr/>
		\$17 047 05
Total indebtedness of the town March 1, 1872,		39 908 17
Total assets,		17 047 05
		<hr/>
Balance against the town		\$22 861 12

after paying \$10 000 00 voted by the town for the State Normal School, \$1000 00 for the Cemetery.

JOHN T. CUTTER,	}	Selectmen of Plymouth,
WM. G. HULL,		
CYRUS CORLISS,		

## To the Selectmen of Plymouth, N. H.

GENTLEMEN:—

The School Committee of Plymouth, presents to the town the following report relating to the interest intrusted to his care.

The following Table contains items of interest  
to the several Districts.

No. of District.	Names of Prudential Committee.	No. of Terms.	Names of Teachers employed.	Term in Weeks.	Wages per Month.	Public Money, Town, Railroad and Literary.	Whole No. of Scholars.	Pupils over 16 years of age	No. of Tardy Marks.	No. of scholars not absent half a day.
1	Daniel Currier.	1	Martha J. Hazelton,	9	\$22.00	\$95.44	20	0	49	2
2		2	Laura B. Tilden,	7	28.00		21	3	83	8
1	H. W. Blair,	1	Susan C. Eastman,	8	42.00		41	4	10	12
1		1	Martha P. Perkins,	8	40.00		36	0	109	6
2		2	Susan C. Eastman.			373.11				
2		2	H. L. Clement,	10			46	0	72	5
3		3	Lucias M. Scott.	8 1-2	44.00		47	6	20	8
3		3	Emma J. Thompson,	8 2-5	44.00		48	0	87	6
1	C. H. Bowles.	1	Martha M. Clark,	8	24.00	98.04	18	0	6	6
2		2	L. E. Folansbee,	4	35.00		31	12	10	4
1	M. Morse.	1	Mary E. Bartlett,	7	20.00	85.06	22	5	13	6
1		1	Ella A. Bailey,	10	30.00		30	9	69	9
5	Henry C. Homans,	1	Mary L. Smith,	11	22.00	59.11	15	3	61	0
6	Martha Merrill.	1	Etta M. Hayes,							
8	Richard Clark.	1	Emma Russell,	11	26.00	144.75	26	2	50	2
2		2	Ella Clark,	8	20.00	98.04	17	2	36	6
2		2	Elmira F. Gove,	9	27.00		24	8	146	0
9	John F. Morton,	1	Louise V. George,	8	28.00	77.28	20	1	29	3
1		1	Mary R. Sulinghan,	8	20.00		19	0	43	3
12	Patric Donovan.	2	Luella H. Merrill.	4	20.00	64.30	23	0	8	13

So universal is the love of praise, plain truth is frequently unwelcome. It is so much easier to flatter people than to tell them the truth, that the majority of office holders, if no others, have thoroughly learned the art of flattery. The School Committee knowing that his continuance in office is dependent upon a capricious public opinion, is of all others most tempted to write what he knows to be pleasing, and to pass in silence unwelcome truths. Not having any "axes to grind" I may be allowed a plain statement of my own opinion,

*DISTRICT NO. 1.* Teacher of summer term, Miss Martha Hazelton, possesses in a good degree the qualities of a superior teacher. She is well educated in the subjects to be taught in the school-room. She is thorough and methodical, and in a quiet manner governs her school. This was a profitable term, and gave I believe universal satisfaction.

Teacher of winter term, Miss Laura B. Tilden. In intellectual ability, Miss Tilden is doubtless equal to the task of teaching this or any of the district schools in town. Her only failure seems to be in the government of her school. If the parents were told that their children are hard to govern, many of them might resent the remark. Such however, appears to be the case.

*NO. 2.* Model school, spring and fall term taught by Miss Susan C. Eastman. During my visits in her school, the scholars were very respectful to their teacher and to visitors. This is one of the indications of a good school. The examinations at the close of each term appeared to be thorough and practical. I have seldom witnessed an examination where pupils gave more intelligent reasons for all the operations in mathematics. Objection has been made that the fall term was a partial failure in order. I have this to say, that the difference between governing forty scholars and sixty, is very great. It would seem to be for the interest of this district, that the teachers of the Normal school either reduce the number of outside scholars, or increase the number of teachers for this department.

Primary department of spring term taught by Miss Martha P. Perkins. Having had little experience before as a teacher, it was not to be expected that she would do the work of an experienced mind. Her success however, in winning the love of her scholars and the good opinion of all who became acquainted with her, gives promise of a desirable reputation in the not distant future.

Primary department of fall term was in charge of Miss H. L. Clement. A good work was commenced here, and a marked improvement in the condition of the school was the result.



The winter term of the model school was taught by Mr. Lucias M. Scott. As a scholar, Mr. Scott has a desirable reputation. In a school less difficult to govern, he would do well.— That teacher will usually govern best who can interest most. If Mr. Scott had called upon the committee to promptly expel one or more of the indolent spirits from his school-room, it would have had a wholesome effect on those who remained. With law on the side of the teacher, there is no good reason why scholars of every grade should not be made to feel the force of it.

• Primary department, winter term, teacher Miss Emma J. Thompson. It is customary to praise those whom others praise. Miss Thompson has been called the best teacher for primary schools in the state. If I may judge from my own limited observation, I see no reason why she is not entitled to that preeminence. During my visits, in this department her school appeared to be a model of excellence. Learn one thing at a time and learn it well, seemed to be the motto in this school-room.

*NO. 3.* The summer term was taught with good success by Miss Martha M. Clark. The winter term commenced under favorable circumstances, under the instruction of Mr. L. E. Molansbee, but closed somewhat abruptly, without notice to the committee. The general impression is not favorable. Our friends in this district will recollect the suggestion in my last report.

*NO. 4.* I am glad to note a marked improvement in this district. A convenient wood-shed has been built for the accommodation of the school. This is one step in the direction of progress. Now if the people of the district will resolve to remodel their school-room after the fashion of Dis. No. 1, they will find the expense small and the convenience great. In their selection of teachers, they have been fortunate. Miss M. Bartlett taught the summer term with her usual good success. Miss Ella Bailey taught the winter term. The influence Miss Bailey exerted over her scholars was very good. She was untiring in her efforts for the advancement of her school. If the scholars in this district have not made progress in their studies, it is not for want of interest and effort on the part of their teachers.

*NO. 5.* Teacher, Miss Mary L. Smith. Notwithstanding the many influences in her favor in the beginning of her school, Miss Smith failed to meet the expectation of her friends. The word failure is so hard a word to write, that I ought perhaps to pass in silence what I thought of writing; simply remarking, that sooner or later, Miss Smith will, I think, come to see that she has not the qualifications for a successful teacher.

*NO. 6.* Teacher of summer term, Miss Etta Hayes. Teacher of winter term, Miss Emma Russell. Both were pupils of the Normal School. They made good use of their normal training, and many of their classes showed the good effect of it.

*NO. 7.* Union Dist. The teacher after teaching between one and two weeks, failing to obtain a certificate from the Plymouth committee, applied to the Hebron committee with better success, he having doubtless mislaid his law book, in such cases made and provided by our legislators at Concord.

*NO. 8.* Miss Ella A. Clark, teacher of first term. This was her first experience in teaching, yet I think I can safely write, successful in her first attempt. On the occasion of both my visits, the order was good and the scholars both respectful and attentive. A little more energy on the part of the teacher would have produced a like result on the part of the scholars.

The winter term was a marked success. So earnest, active and critical a teacher as Miss Gove, can scarcely fail of taking a high position if she continues in the business she has nobly begun.

*NO. 9.* This district had but one term of school. Miss Louise V. George taught with her usual marked success.

*NO. 12.* Teacher of first term, Miss Mary Selingham.—Teacher of second term, Miss Luella H. Merrill. As usual this district has been fortunate in their selection of teachers. In the discipline of her school, Miss Merrill will, I think, compare favorably with any teacher in town. A school of 20 scholars, in the midst of the richest farming district in town, able to have 12 weeks school in a year! Here is a problem for some mathematician to solve.

This school, although a short one, is entitled to preeminence in one respect. John Donovan is I think the best mathematical scholar of his age in town, and it is to be hoped that so good a scholar will enjoy the advantages of a liberal education.

It is the usual custom for the school committee to yearly congratulate the people on the marked success of their schools.—While the majority of our teachers the past year, have been able and efficient, I have too much regard for truth to flatter them or any body else into the belief that our common schools are enjoying unusual prosperity. What occasion is there for congratulating the people in that rich farming district, No. 3, that they were able to have four weeks winter school, when they ought to have employed some earnest, able man for, at least twelve weeks?—Or that thriving community, dis. No. 12, that they were able to

keep employed, that thorough disciplinarian, Miss Merrill, for the space of twenty days? There must be something radically wrong in a school system which produces results like these. That we are twenty-five, if not fifty years behind time in our educational system, is to me a humiliating truth. Having had considerable experience in teaching in the district and graded schools in Illinois, I am able to see some contrast between the advanced ideas of that growing state and our own educational system.

To sum up in few words, I believe we ought to follow the example of some of the younger and more growing states. Let the township form a single district. Abolish the office of prudential and superintending committee. Elect a board of three directors, to hold office for three years after the board becomes permanent, electing a new man each year, thus securing experienced officers on the board from year to year. Give them full power respecting school interests, to examine and hire teachers, (mark the order, not hire and examine as is now done,) divide into sub-districts and do whatever else the cause of education might demand. Under a system like this, we might reasonably hope that the school money would not be squandered, and that our schools, instead of being eight weeks in length, would be twenty at least.

No change has been made the past year in text books, except in the primary and model schools in the village district, where Guyot's Geographies and the Analytical Readers have been introduced to conform to those in use in the Normal school. One or two of the teachers from the Normal school took the liberty to introduce Guyot's Geographies into their school. Let it be remembered that as the law now stands, the school committee and a majority of the board of selectmen, only, have the power to make any change in text books. Were I again to serve in the capacity I now do, I would follow the example of a brother committee and give to every teacher in town a written list of those text books in legal use in our schools, and exclude all others. In this way only, can we ever hope for uniformity, unless the legislature takes the subject into consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

HERMAN L. SARGENT,

Superintending School Committee.

Plymouth, Feb. 20, 1872.









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